

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ONE 2022 MERCEDES GLE COUPE
SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE,
VIN 4JGFD8KB4NA779976,
BEARING WASHINGTON LICENSE
PLATE CEP2184, REGISTERED TO
ANTHONY J. VALELA; AND

\$17,721.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED
ON OR ABOUT JUNE 12, 2023,

Defendants.

NO. CV24-1722-RSL

**DEFAULT JUDGMENT OF
FORFEITURE**

This matter comes before the Court on the United States' Motion for Default Judgment of Forfeiture (the "Motion"), for the above-captioned 2022 Mercedes GLE Coupe Sport Utility Vehicle, VIN 4JGFD8KB4NA779976, bearing Washington License Plate CEP2184 (the "Defendant Mercedes") and \$17,721.00 In U.S. Currency seized on or about June 12, 2023 (the "Defendant Currency") (collectively, the "Defendant Property").

1 The Court, having reviewed the Motion, as well as the other pleadings and papers
2 filed in this matter, hereby FINDS entry of a Default Judgment of Forfeiture is
3 appropriate because:

4 1. The United States has properly served, by direct notice reasonably
5 calculated to reach identified potential claimants and by publication, all potential
6 claimants, as required by Rule G(4) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime
7 Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions (“Supplemental Rules”) (*see* Dkt. Nos. 3, 6, 7, 9, 10,
8 12, 14, 15, 16, 19);

9 2. No person has filed a claim to the above-captioned property within the
10 required period provided by Supplemental Rules G(4) and G(5) or otherwise appeared in
11 this case;

12 3. On April 17, 2025, the Clerk of Court entered default against all potential
13 claimants (*see* Dkt. No. 20);

14 4. The factors set forth in *Eitel v. McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir.
15 1986), weigh in favor of entry of default judgment.

16 Now, therefore, a Default Judgment of Forfeiture is ENTERED, as follows:

17 1. The above-captioned Defendant Property is fully and finally condemned
18 and forfeited to the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) (proceeds from the
19 sale of controlled substances);

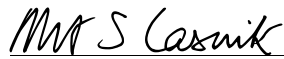
20 2. The above-captioned Defendant Mercedes is also forfeitable to the United
21 States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(4) (facilitating property for drug distribution and
22 possessing drugs with the intent to distribute) and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A)
23 (property involved in a transaction in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957);

24 3. Hereinafter, no right, title, or interest in the Defendant Property shall exist
25 in any party, other than in the United States; and
26
27

1 4. The United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of
2 Investigation, and/or its agents and representatives, shall dispose of the Defendant
3 Property as permitted by governing law.
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5 It is so ORDERED.
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7 DATED this 2nd day of May, 2025.
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11 ROBERT S. LASNIK
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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15 Presented by:

16 s/Karyn S. Johnson

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